

SPRING 2004

# WARRIORS

Quarterly Magazine for the Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs



PREMIERE ISSUE



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# WARRIORS

Quarterly Magazine for the Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs

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The Alaska Army National Guard's 207th Aviation Regiment is currently deployed to Kosovo for peace-keeping duties.  
Cover Photo: SPC Logan Haller



Scouts point the way forward during a training exercise.  
Photo: Mark Farmer

**Warriors** is a commercial enterprise publication, produced in partnership, quarterly, by the State of Alaska, Department of Military & Veterans Affairs, PO Box 5800, Camp Denali, Ft. Richardson, Alaska 99505-5800. Phone (907) 428-6031, fax 428-6035; and AQP Publishing, Inc., 8537 Corbin Drive, Anchorage, Alaska 99507. Views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the Departments of the Army and Air Force, or State of Alaska. All photos are Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs photos unless otherwise credited. Circulation: 5,000.

**Distribution:** **Warriors** is published for all current civilian employees, military members, veterans (and their families) of the Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs. It is distributed, free of charge, via mail and distribution, through each Division within the Department. It is also available at: [www.ak-prepared.com/dmva](http://www.ak-prepared.com/dmva).

### HOW TO REACH US

**Submissions:** Print and visual submissions of general interest to our diverse civilian employees, Alaska National Guard military members, veterans, and families are invited and encouraged. Please send articles and photos with name, phone number, e-mail, complete mailing address,

and comments to:

**Warriors Magazine**  
Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs  
Office of Public Affairs  
PO Box 5800, Camp Denali  
Ft Richardson, AK 99505-5800  
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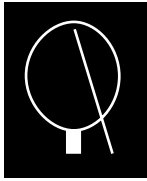
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# Dispatches from the Front...



Saved elders from severe storm. Staff Sergeant Sean Octuck and Master Sergeant Kevin Knowlton rescued elders at Solomon. Photo: Alaska Army National Guard

## Guard Rescues Elders

**NOME...** Two Alaska National Guard Soldiers and two rescuers from the Nome Fire Department braved bitter cold to rescue two elders from the village of Solomon. The brothers, Franklin Okitkum, 76, and Garfield Okitkum 81, ran short of firewood and food when they realized they were in trouble in minus 120 temperatures. Aircraft was unable to respond due to weather, so Guard members Master Sgt. Kevin Knowlton, and Staff Sgt. Sean Octuck, and two members from the Nome Fire Department volunteered to drive two Small Unit Support

Vehicles to the village of Solomon to help the brothers. Garfield Okitkum suffered from frostbite injuries to his face. Both Guard members were awarded Battalion Commander's coins for their efforts.

## Medals Recognize 'War on Terrorism' Service

**WASHINGTON...** Military members serving at home and abroad in the war on terrorism will now be recognized for that service. Defense officials announced today the final approval of two new medals and their criteria.

Individuals who have deployed to operations Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom will be awarded the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal. The Global War on Terrorism Service Medal will be awarded to those who served in airport security operations in the United States following the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks or who supported operations Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle or Iraqi Freedom.

The front of Global War in Terrorism Expeditionary Medal features a shield adapted from the Great Seal of the United States. The back includes the eagle, serpent and swords from the medal's front-side design along with the inscription "War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal." The medal's final approval was announced Feb. 26.

"These medals recognize the significant contributions members of the armed forces bring to bear in combating terrorism in all forms throughout the world – for both current and future operations," defense officials noted. Individuals can receive both medals if they meet the individual criteria.

## Governor opens medical coverage for State employees who are activated with Guard or Reserves

**JUNEAU...** Governor Frank H. Murkowski signed administrative order number 213, which states if you are an employee of the State of Alaska and have been activated for duty with the Alaska National Guard or the Reserves related to America's war on terrorism you may be eligible to have your medical benefits continue covering you and your family. Please contact your state supervisor for more details, or go to <http://gov.state.ak.us/admin-orders/213.html> for a direct link to Administrative Order number 213, or the State's website at <http://www.state.ak.us>.

Keep up to date on activities and events within the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs with a visit to our website at: [www.ak-prepared.com/dmva](http://www.ak-prepared.com/dmva) . ■



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# Where in the World

## First Steps For the Newest Pacific Partnership

*Alaska and Mongolia are newest 'State Partners' in the Pacific*

By Major Mark Bour

With what promises to be a long-lasting friendship, Alaska began its SPP relationship with Mongolia sending delegations to two recent events. The first was a Bilateral Consultative Counsel (BCC), sponsored by the Office of the Secretary of Defense, followed by an inaugural planning event, both held in the Mongolian capital of Ulaanbaatar.

The Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) took the lead for the Mongolian staff talks, with Mr. Ed Ross, Director of Middle East, Asia, and North Africa, hosting the American delegation. In addition to DSCA, the team was composed of representatives from Office of Secretary of Defense, Department of State, Joint Staff, Pacific Command, the National Guard Bureau, Alaska National Guard, Pacific Air Forces, US Army Pacific, US Marine Forces Pacific, and the III Marine Expeditionary Force.

The team interacted with a full range of officers from the Mongolian Armed Forces, led by Major General Baasankhuu, State Secretary of the Ministry of Defense. Mongolian defense policy and armed forces transformation, Mongolian-U.S. defense cooperation in FY02-03, and support for the global war on terrorism, were key issues of discussion. U.S. delegates briefed defense resource management, the global war on terrorism and theater security cooperation. Tours of MAF peacekeeping training and English language training facilities rounded out the visit.

Major Mark Bour, the Alaska-

Mongolia State Partnership Coordinator, presented an overview of the SPP, focusing on Alaska National Guard capabilities. Major General Borbaatar, First Deputy of the General Staff, requested specific information about National Guard structure, as the Mongolian Armed Forces are keenly interested in using it as a model for developing a responsive, regionally based reserve component.

Alaskan and Pacific Command representatives returned to Ulaanbaatar the second week in December to discuss engagement avenues between the Alaska National Guard and the General Staff of the Mongolian Armed Forces, the Mongolian Ministry of Defense and the Mongolian State Board of Civil Defense. Their stated goal: begin development for a 3-year State Partnership Program schedule.

Mongolia

Ft. Greely

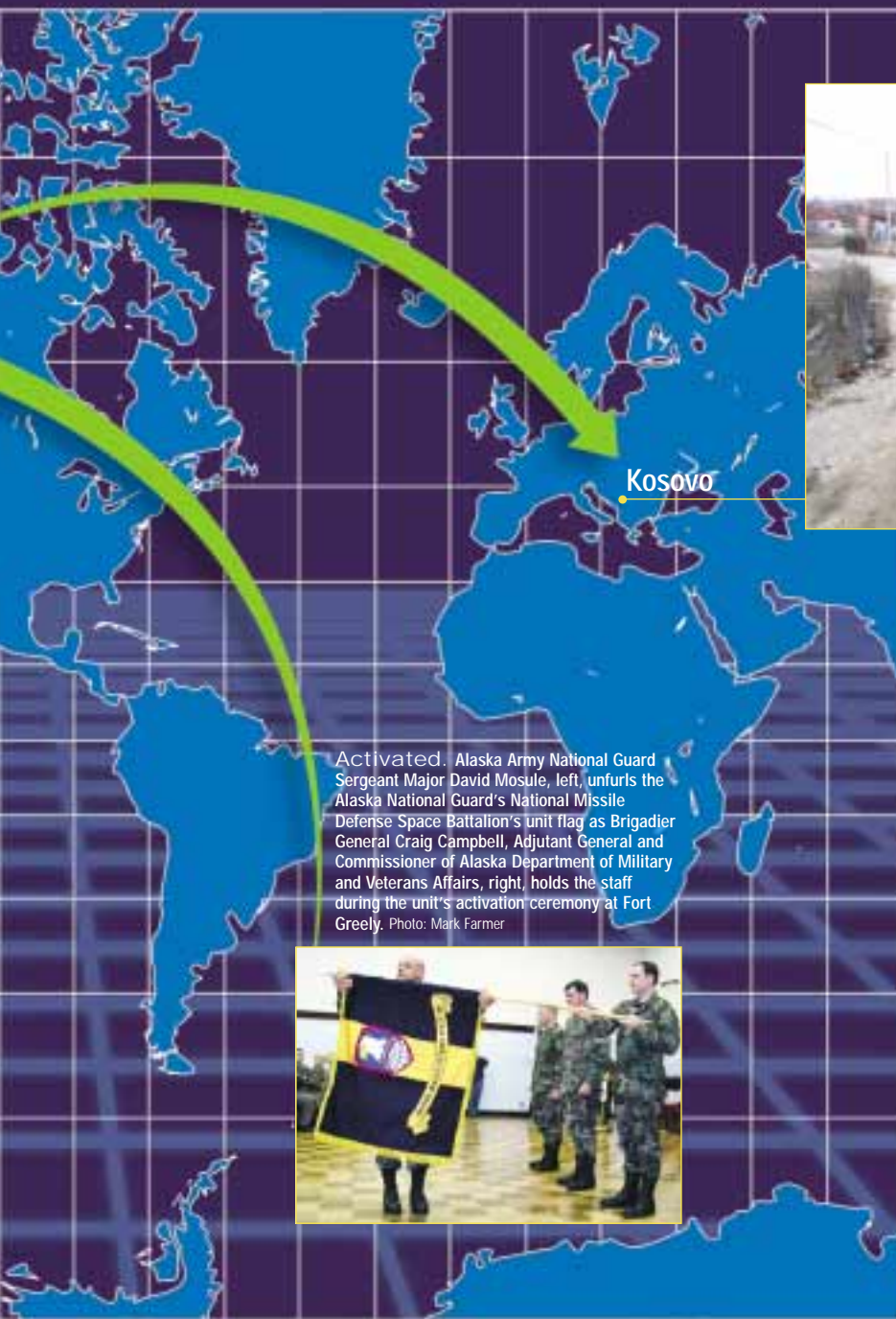
Missile Defense Soldiers arrive at Ft. Greely. The first team of Alaska Army Guard military police moved into operation at the Nation's first line of space defense. The post is in the midst of a 'rebirthing' after spending more than five years in mothballs. Photo: SSG Kevin Lake, 117th MPAD



State Partnership with Mongolia moves forward. Major Mark Bour, center, joined by Command Sergeant Major Dave Hudson, left, and Mongolian Lieutenant Colonel Ganboldt at the Ministry of Defense. Photo: Alaska National Guard







Kosovo

Activated. Alaska Army National Guard Sergeant Major David Mosule, left, unfurls the Alaska National Guard's National Missile Defense Space Battalion's unit flag as Brigadier General Craig Campbell, Adjutant General and Commissioner of Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, right, holds the staff during the unit's activation ceremony at Fort Greely. Photo: Mark Farmer



Kosovo Check Point. 34th Division Soldiers, joined by members of the Alaska Army National Guard, ensure peace-keeping in the region. Photo: SPC Logan Haller

No. It's not Alaska. The mountains, valleys, and villages of Kosovo have a feel of Alaska at moments. Photo: SPC Logan Haller



Colonel George Smith, Major Bour and Command Sergeant Major David Hudson provided in-depth briefings about National Guard missions, roles, constitutional foundation and legal statutes, force structure, and management, as well as Guard capabilities.

The Alaskan delegation, accompanied by U.S. Defense Attaché, Lieutenant Colonel Mark Gillette, met with

Ambassador Slutz to discuss the partnership and its role within the State Department Country Plan. Their discussion covered military-to-military opportunities and potential for Alaska National Guard and Alaska's Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management to get involvement in State Department sponsored activities within Mongolia.

These events highlighted the "perfect

fit" pairing of Alaska with Mongolia. Participants learned that their territories share many similarities and the potential for positive engagement contains much fertile ground. The next steps toward developing the relationship at its current pace include inaugural senior leader exchanges in the spring and summer of 2004 and many subject matter expert exchanges scheduled for FY05-06. Members can contact the program coordinators at (907) 428-6088 to learn more about Mongolia, the SPP and the Alaska Guard's newest mission, and to obtain information about participating in upcoming events. ■



# My Turn

**Brigadier General Craig E. Campbell**

Commissioner, Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs

## Alaska's Forward Progress

I am very pleased to open this *First Edition* of **Warriors Magazine** with a few of my thoughts. This is going to become one of our common meeting places to talk about what is going on within our Department of Military & Veterans Affairs.

In these past 15 months we've worked hard. We've had to. Our fellow Alaskans turned to us for leadership and security. Following the events of 9-11, Alaska focused on some unique and specific threats. We assigned a small cadre of Division of Emergency Services team to oversee the State's Weapons of Mass Destruction and Homeland Security activities. Slightly more than a year ago, Governor Murkowski created the Division of Homeland Security – subsequently merging it with the Division of Emergency Services to create a single Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Their efforts have been and continue to be of great value for our neighbors and each of us.

At the same time, we've had hundreds of members of our Alaska Army and Air National Guard deployed to Kosovo, Afghanistan, Iraq, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, the

Philippines, Korea, and many other places. Many are still deployed.

This is the year that we're deeply involved with stepping up to our national Missile Defense mission with the Alaska Army National Guard at Ft. Greely. We're also closing in on 'owning' space surveillance operations at Clear Air Force Station. We're an organization that is dynamic, on the move, and very much a relevant, ready force of men and women – civilians and military members – who are doing the things Alaska and our nation need to have done for them.

We will use **Warriors Magazine** and other venues to ensure that we're communicating clearly with one another. The bottom line – your efforts matter; what you are doing is important and what we're accomplishing together is significant. ■



# Veterans

## Governor Appoints 13 to Vets Advisory Council

JUNEAU—Governor Frank H. Murkowski has appointed 13 Alaskans to serve on a newly created Veterans Advisory Council, which has the mission to advise the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs and the Governor on veterans' issues.

"I look forward to working with each of these dedicated veterans to make sure the state's services for our veterans are everything they should be," Murkowski said.

The council is charged with providing recommendations concerning the needs and benefits for Alaska's veterans, as well as to develop public-private partnerships with organizations to meet those needs. It will make annual recommendations to the

Governor and the department. Members appointed to one-, two-, or three-year terms, are:

**John Vowell**, Juneau, is director of the state's six Pioneer Homes and is appointed to a seat designated for a state agency. Vowell is a veteran and will provide assistance on the Veterans Home issue.

**Ronald Huffman**, Nome, served in the US Air Force from 1962-93, and is the current program director for community education with Kawerak, Inc. He is a former Air Force Junior ROTC instructor.

**Nona Johnson**, Anchorage, served in the Marine Corps in WWII and has lived in Alaska since 1947. The only woman on

the council, Johnson is a charter member of the all-woman American Legion Post.

**Victor Karmun**, Kotzebue, who served in the US Navy, is a volunteer Kotzebue Sound ADF&G advisory committee member and is a former Native Liaison for the US Fish & Wildlife Service.

**James Grizzell**, of the Mat-Su Valley, is a disabled WWII veteran of the Marine Corps who was serving on the USS Lexington when it was sunk at Midway. Grizzell is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

**George Gaguzis**, Anchorage, served as an Army combat infantry sergeant in

VETERANS... continued on page 9



# Honored for Contributions to the Global War on Terrorism



Giving their best effort. Four current or former members of the Alaska National Guard were honored during Veterans & Remembrance Day at Anchorage's Performing Arts Center. Right to left: Brigadier General (Ret.) George Cannelos, Legion of Merit; Colonel Jim Robinson, Bronze Star; Lieutenant Colonel Steve Williams, Bronze Star; and Senior Master Sergeant Daniel Siekawitch, Meritorious Service Medal. Photo: SPC Kelsea Vandergriff, 117th MPAD

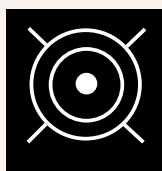
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## ALASKA AIR NATIONAL GUARD



# Education

## Alaska's Military Youth Academy



Academic Champions. Tim Jones, director of the Alaska National Guard's Military Youth Academy, holds the First Place trophy won by a team of cadets at the annual Alaska Academic Decathlon, recently. Jones noted the importance of the recognition, "given that many of our students are those the traditional public and private educational systems have given up on."

Photo: SGT Ken Denny, 117th MPAD

### ***...Lighting the trail ahead for youngsters statewide***

The Alaska Military Youth Academy (AMYA) provides qualified students with a strong basic education, leadership development and healthy life skills. This is accomplished through the Academy's two primary programs, **ChalleNGe** and **STARBASE**.

ChalleNGe students' personal development in the critical life skill areas of health, hygiene, nutrition, citizenship, leadership and teamwork, physical fitness, academic excellence and work skills preparation are stressed throughout the demanding ChalleNGe course.

"Since 1994 we have graduated approximately 1,585 students from the ChalleNGe course," said Timothy Jones, Director of the Youth Academy, "that's about a hundred per class, twice a year."

ChalleNGe is divided into three phases – the first part is a two-week-long testing and indoctrination period. Not all applicants successfully complete this pre-ChalleNGe phase. The next phase is the 20-week residential course, followed by phase three, a 12-month-long, national award-winning mentoring program.

### ***The School Improvement Process***

The Alaska Military Youth Academy follows a structured, formal and continuous process to ensure they accomplish their mission and achieve their vision. Input from students, staff, parents, mentors, civic and government leaders and agencies are utilized in the formation of our operational and budget plans.

The results are impressive. According to Jones, approximately 55 percent go to trade school or into job placement, 25 percent of the students go into the military, and about "ten percent go on to college," he said.

The academy's strategic process is monitored by the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges and Universities. They've awarded the Academy accreditation as a special purpose school for meeting their high academic standards. The Academy is reviewed annually by the National Guard Bureau to assist with achieving their strategic objectives and ensure policy compliance.

### ***Sciences Become Adventure***

STARBASE (Science, Technology and Academics, Reinforcing Basic Aviation and Space Exploration) Alaska is a hands-on academic program for elementary school children. It utilizes a motivating interactive curriculum of classroom learning and physical experiments to encourage interest in science, math, aviation and space exploration.

Program instruction focuses on communication, discipline and teamwork while encouraging students to avoid illegal drugs and alcohol. ■



Vietnam. He has been an Alaska resident since 1971 and has been active in veterans' issues for many years. Gaguzis is a member the VFW and Vietnam Veterans of America.

**Robert Murray**, Anderson, has been an Alaska resident since 1966, living in Nome and Fairbanks before moving to Anderson. Murray is a WWII veteran.

**Ron Eller**, Kodiak, is a disabled veteran who served 32 years in the US Coast Guard. He owns a sportfishing lodge and is a member of the VFW.

**Ted Taylor**, Anchorage, is the president of Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 904, and represents that organization on the council.

**Richard Frank**, Fairbanks, is a former board member of the Tanana Chiefs and is a Native elder.

**Joseph Fields III**, Fairbanks, served two tours of duty in Vietnam in the US

Army and helped bring the Vietnam Memorial moving wall to Alaska. He is a member of the Interior Alaska Veterans Coalition.

**Wev Shea**, Anchorage, served as a yeoman 3rd class in the US Navy, flew more than 100 combat missions in Vietnam, and is a former US attorney for Alaska.

**Robert (Bert) Hall, Sr.**, Wasilla, is an Army veteran and is a former Associate Director of US Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic.

Murkowski said he appreciates the time commitment made by each of the members of the council. "As a veteran, I recognize the significant contribution made by each of these Alaskans when they served in the military, as well as the contributions they continue to make every day in their communities. The veterans of the state will be well served by their representation on the advisory council." ■

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## Operation Uplink



Clear Channel Connections for Families. Brig. Gen. Craig E. Campbell, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Military & Veterans Affairs presents a plaque to Evelyn McCune, left, National President, Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. with Barbara A. Melick, center, Ladies Auxiliary VFW, Department of Alaska President. The plaque was in appreciation for McCune's work with Operation Uplink, a program which donates phone cards to deployed troops worldwide. Currently, the Alaska National Guard has approximately 125 soldiers and airmen still deployed worldwide.

Photo: SGT Ken Denny, 117th MPAD



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# SOLO AT THE ROOF OF NORTH AMERICA

*With spring climbing season at the ready, here is a story of one who's been there*

**by MAJ Nate Burnham, Alaska Army National Guard**

**Photos courtesy CPT James Eskelson**



■ When Captain James 'JD' Eskelson arrived in Alaska in 1995 and saw North America's highest peak for the first time, he set a goal. "I'm going to climb you before I'm 40," he said. And he did it this past June, at the age of 39.

Eskelson, a Scout Company commander of the Alaska Army National Guard's C Company, 1/297th Infantry, completed a 13-day solo climb of Mount McKinley on June 12, 2003, with an unprecedented three-hour sojourn on the summit.

He said that he needed four things to make it to the top. "You've got to have the desire, determination, faith and you've got to have luck."

But to hear Eskelson tell of his preparation it is clear that like any good military officer, he made his own luck. "I set myself up for success." He tackled the mountain the same way he would prepare for a military mission.

He carried 30 days of supplies so he could wait out the bad weather that causes many climbers to eat up their food as they wait for the elusive

"weather window." "I had a primary, secondary and alternate plan for everything." He had three lighters. His \$80 windproof lighter wouldn't work above 9,000 feet, so his secondary disposable became his primary. He had three radios to keep tabs on weather and call for help in an emergency. He even had three cameras, a disposable, a 35mm and a digital – he ended up selling his disposable to another climber who didn't plan quite as well.

Eskelson originally had a team of



**Solo acts are tough.** According to Denali Park Ranger John Leonard, solo climbers can't rope together to prevent falling into hidden crevasses, nor can they make use of the belaying pickets that the Park Service maintains on the steeper portions of the mountain. Of the 1,140 people who climbed the mountain in 2003, only 60 percent summited and less than 5 percent of those were solo climbers.

four climbers, but as time grew closer they dropped out. Finally, Eskelson decided he would try it alone. Solo climbs on the mountain are not unheard of, but the National Park Service Rangers who patrol the area and manage the climbing permit process highly discourage solo climbers.

According to rangers, of the 1,140 people who climbed the mountain in 2003, only 60 percent summited and less than 5 percent of those were solo climbers.

Like any military operation, no

matter how well it's planned, problems develop. In addition to losing his climbing team as the summer climbing window approached, Eskelson was injured just six weeks before his scheduled departure date. On a training run in the Talkeetna Mountains he was skiing in a spring snowstorm. One of Eskelson's skis broke and he fell, jamming the tip of his ski into his left eye. He broke the bone at the bottom of his eye socket and damaged the eye itself. "I was freaked out that the climb would be scratched," he said. Doctors

in Anchorage treated him but were not sure how his injury would react to the stress of high altitude. His eye proved not to be a serious problem on the mountain, though he continues to suffer from the injury.

Another unforeseen, though less serious problem, arose from Eskelson's double insulated mug. As atmospheric pressure dropped the air trapped inside the mugs walls expanded. The higher he climbed the smaller his mug got. "You can train all you want," said Eskelson, "but sometimes you just have to improvise and overcome, especially when you climb solo. You basically have three options: do it, quit, or die."

On the day he chose to summit, the unthinkable happened—Eskelson was sick. Altitude sickness left him nauseous for the previous 36 hours.

Barely able to keep water and bits of energy bars down he left his camp at midnight. It was light out because of the high northern latitude, and the all-important weather report hinted that



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the skies would remain clear and the winds would be calm.

Eskelson was the first one on the trail that morning, which meant breaking trail through fresh snow. He slipped twice on one steep cornice near the top.

Eskelson shakes his head when he talks

about it. "It was a real gut check. I seriously thought about turning back." But he didn't. He overcame his fears, with what appears to be his hallmark determination, and at 0954 he crested the summit.

Eskelson said he sat on the summit alone for exactly three hours. He didn't mind the zero degree temperature. He was enraptured by the view.

When he finally headed back down he



passed several other parties on the way up. They each quickly summited then bolted for the relative safety of lower elevations as the weather began to deteriorate. Eskelson had been rewarded for his trail breaking efforts with an exceptionally long weather window. It

took him only two days to return to his pick-up point on the Kahiltna Glacier at 7,200 feet. A brief bush plane flight later he was worlds away from the dangerous beauty of Mount McKinley, but the memories of his climb, he says, will stay with him forever.

Eskelson's dream is to complete the Southern Traverse of New Zealand. A race, he says, that is the grandfather of adventure racing. ■



## HOOAH! Bar

On his recent solo climb of Mount McKinley CPT "JD" Eskelson, Alaska Army National Guard, ate the Army's nutritional supplement bars that come with MREs, aka HOOAH! bars. "They are better than other power bars," said Eskelson. "They don't freeze. The other bars you have to put in your mouth to thaw before you can chew them." Plus he compared labels and found that HOOAH! bars have more carbohydrates. "They are a real energy bar, not so much of a protein bar."

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# HOMELAND



In addition to the cutters Mustang and Long Island, the Coast Guard mobilized its high speed patrol boats for surveillance of the Port and Alyeska during the Orange level emergency alert.  
Photo: SPC Laura Griffin

## Alaska Reacts to Higher Threat Level

Alaska's Office of Homeland Security takes leading role in coordinating *Operation Winter Talon*

By Specialist Laura Griffin with Sergeant Ken Denny



**CAMP DENALI, Alaska**— It was yet another in the series of unspecific threats to America that prompted President George W. Bush and Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge to raise the nation's threat level to Orange during the Christmas and New Years' holidays – the highest it had been since April 2003. Information from the FBI warned of possible threats to chemical and energy facilities of the United States over the holiday season. With Alaska supplying approximately 20 percent of America's oil (and most of the oil for the west coast), Governor Frank H. Murkowski raised Alaska to the second highest threat level.

In order to protect the pipeline and the port areas at Valdez, Murkowski also gave the order to implement an emergency prevention plan that involved the FBI, Alaska National Guard, U.S. Coast Guard, Alaska State Defense Force, Alaska State Troopers, various city police departments and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms.

When his call came, they were ready.

The Eleventh Air Force sent F-15 fighters and the Airborne Warning and Control aircraft aloft. The Alaska Air National Guard provided tanker support from the 168th Air Refueling Wing at Eielson AFB.

Since September 11, 2001 there has been enormous effort put forth to facilitate the communication and cooperation between these agencies, which has paid off for Alaska, according to Lt. Col. Jeff Badger of the Alaska Army National Guard. Various scenarios in previous joint agency exercises were surprisingly similar to the real world situation that became *Operation Winter Talon*. "All of these agencies worked together during the Northern Edge and Northern Crude exercises, so the agencies were all familiar with each other's roles and duties," said Badger.

According to Tom Burgess, director of the Alaska Office of Homeland Security, the State was prepared for this type of event. "The FBI and the Coast

Alaska National Guard members and Alaska State Troopers manned security checkpoints set up in and around Valdez while Coast Guard dive team members, MK3 Adam Czarnecki and CWO Rick Warren, inspected below the waterline areas of the Port of Valdez.

Photo: SPC Laura Griffin



# SECURITY

## Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management

By Jamie Littrell

Members of the Alaska National Guard and the Alaska State Troopers inspected and examined hundreds of vehicles during the recent Orange Alert in and around Valdez. Photo: PFC John Chriswell

Guard were the lead federal agencies in this mission referring to the security detail in Valdez. They had tactical authority with a representative from the City of Valdez. Our State Homeland Security and the FBI shared administrative authority. For the most part it ran smoothly," said Burgess.

State Defense Force, 49th Military Police Brigade members and Alaska National Guard members were deployed to the Yukon River Bridge along the Dalton Highway and were dispatched to Juneau to guard the Capitol building and other important infrastructure.

According to Major Mike Haller, Public Affairs officer, "The Alaska State Defense Force, 49th Military Police Brigade is unique in that members are not normally compensated for training and drills, and may be called into state service to assist in disasters and emergencies. The ASDF was organized in 1984 by state statute under the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs. With nearly 275 members, several patrol boats and PQ-13 Ercoupe patrol aircraft, the ASDF is a significant force multiplier. About 70 percent of their members have prior military service and clearly each

HOMELAND SECURITY... *continued on page 17*

Photo: PFC John Chriswell



The Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management is a combination of the Division of Homeland Security and the Office of Emergency Services. The result is the provision of better services to local jurisdictions and the streamlining of staff resources. But even though the two separate offices are now one, the mission statement for the division remains the same: protect the lives and property of Alaskans from terrorist attacks and all other hazards and provide rapid recovery for all of those affected by disastrous events.

The Division has six strategic goals it has set forth to help guarantee Alaska's security and lead the way in emergency management. They include reducing the vulnerability to loss of life, injury and property damages resulting from disasters; providing efficient and timely homeland security and disaster management to Alaskans; developing and implementing a statewide homeland security and emergency management training and exercise program; developing and prioritizing a State of Alaska Critical Infrastructure list; enhancing and expanding terrorist information and intelligence dissemination; and increasing community and local jurisdiction public outreach.

The Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management is lead by David Liebersbach. Mr. Liebersbach is retired Army where he served in the 173rd Airborne Brigade, E Troop 17th Cavalry, Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol in Vietnam. During his service, he earned the Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, the Air Medal with Oak Leaf cluster, the Army Commendation Medal with "V" device and numerous other awards.

Mr. Liebersbach was hired as the Chief of Staff for the Alaska Division of Emergency Services in 1996 and was appointed to Division Director in February of 1999. In July of 2003, he was assigned to oversee the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Services.

In the last year, the Division has accomplished some major feats. They have established and combined the Governor's Homeland Security Task Force with the U.S. Attorney's Anti-Terrorism Task Force to create a joint State and Federal Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council (ATAC). In an effort to streamline anti-terror efforts, they established the State's Homeland Security Threat Level procedures and developed a comprehensive federal, State, and local three-year Statewide Homeland Security Exercise Program.

Division personnel have also responded to five events in Fiscal Year 2003 that resulted in three federal and two State Disaster Declarations, as well as three other emergencies and events that did not result in disaster declarations. Personnel also conducted an Emergency Management Conference focused on flooding. The conference brought in 145 conferees from 59 communities and 19 State and federal agencies.

The Division is committed to developing and implementing an integrated system that not only provides effective emergency management but is proactive in adapting to the changing world to better prepare for, respond to, and recover from any type of disastrous event. ■

## ***Alaska's Homeland Security Efforts in Focus***

By Brigadier General Craig E. Campbell  
*Commissioner, Alaska Department of Military  
& Veterans Affairs*



For the past two hundred and forty years America has been blessed with protection from hostile aggression by our unique geography of having two major oceans distance us from Europe and Asia. For the most part, with the exception of Pearl Harbor and the Aleutians during World War II, America was secure from foreign attack. However, the acts of September 11, 2001, clearly demonstrated an ability of our enemies to strike at the heartland of America and showed us the changing nature of international conflicts, where an enemy of our nation no longer is necessarily another nation. Protecting the United States of America from terrorist activities changed the way we must organize to secure our state.

Following the events of 9-11, Alaska focused on some unique and specific threats. We assigned a small cadre of Division of Emergency Services personnel to oversee the State's Weapons of Mass Destruction and Homeland Security activities. In addition to publishing a Three-Year Domestic Preparedness Strategy, the staff also produced a Terrorism Disaster Report, developed and disseminated a daily situation report, formed the Governor's Homeland Security Task Force, and coordinated statewide first responder grants.

In January 2003, Governor Murkowski created the Division of Homeland Security as the agency to implement a homeland security strategy for Alaska. Recognizing that there is no higher priority than ensuring that Alaskans are safe in their communities, whether from an act of terrorism or a natural disaster, the division was subsequently merged with the Division of Emergency Services to create a single Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. A new state Office of Homeland Security (OHS) was created within this division.

In 2003, OHS developed Homeland Security Threat Level Procedures specific to Alaska. The Office also drafted a revision to the State Emergency Response Plan that includes a Terrorism Annex. And the OHS staff is presently completing a new Homeland Security Strategy for Alaska to replace the earlier version Three-Year Domestic Preparedness Strategy. This new document will be a comprehensive program to ensure the security of our state from the new asymmetric threats

facing America.

Working cooperatively with the U.S. Attorney in Alaska, Governor Murkowski advocated for a joint oversight process when dealing with homeland security. This resulted in a newly created Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council of Alaska (ATACA), which combined the US Attorney's Anti-Terrorism Task Force and the previous Governor's Homeland Security Task Force. This council is one of the first of its kind in the nation. It is a key example of state and federal cooperation, providing policy development recommendations regarding readiness, intelligence sharing and business community preparedness.

Programs that improve the state's ability to defend, deter, respond to and recover from threats and acts of terrorism are expensive. This year alone, OHS secured over \$41 million in federal homeland security grants to the State. The bulk of these grants are going to local jurisdictions and first responders to ensure that communities are ready should a terrorist event occur. Today, 31 jurisdictions are potential recipients of Federal Homeland Security Grants.

One of the most important accomplishments of 2003 was formation of the Alaska Vulnerability Analysis Team. The team created a consolidated list of State critical infrastructure and has completed vulnerability analyses of several State and private sector facilities. This concept proved invaluable during the recent holiday season when our threat level was raised to Orange.

As 2003 came to a close, the Alaska National Guard had over 30 soldiers and airmen, along with over 80 members of the Alaska State Defense Force, on state active duty supporting local law enforcement personnel and state troopers in protecting Alaska's critical infrastructure. Several dozen team members of the State Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services ensured that information and coordination worked smoothly among the many federal, State, and local organizations. These men and women of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs responded because Alaska needed them. Their service was just one part of a broad Homeland Security program that ensured Alaskans were safe throughout the holiday season.

As you can see, this past year was



HOMELAND SECURITY continued from page 15...

very busy. We established a solid Homeland Security program, which has proved responsive to Alaska's needs. But security in our state cannot be done by government alone. The OHS needs the participation of the public to complete its mission. You can contribute to the security of your community, state, and nation by practicing "responsible awareness." By creating a responsible level of awareness we avoid overreaction, and at the same time allow for a proper response.

I want to encourage each Alaskan to have a communication plan that allows separated family members to determine one another's location and status. Keep abreast of local and state warnings and advisories, and have enough food and supplies to survive in your home for seven days without external support. These actions will also prepare you for natural disasters that may impact Alaska.

Detailed information and guidelines about communication plans and individual and family preparedness are available on the Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Web site: [www.ak-prepared.com](http://www.ak-prepared.com). Together, we can ensure that Alaska remains secure. ■

one of them have a desire to serve Alaska."

"You should have seen them at the Yukon Bridge—standing in a snowstorm, half green, half white," said Burgess. "They get little compensation for a lot of work." ASDF members served alongside of Alaska Army and Air Guard personnel, State Troopers, and Valdez Police Officers manning checkpoints, checking identifications and searching vehicles.

"Training leads to success!" beamed Badger, the Alaska Army National Guard's 207th Group's "S-3" plans, operations and training officer. Badger was involved with the coordination and liaison between the agencies involved with *Operation Winter Talon*. He also assisted in providing plans and logistics for the unified command. "We've been planning for this exact same mission since October 2001," he said. "We've had somewhere in the neighborhood of four to five 'tabletop' exercises and three field training exercises—all we did was execute what we had previously planned in Northern Edge."

According to Badger, the building of relationships and routines where every

agency knows their role is one of the most important aspects of joint exercises like Northern Edge and Northern Crude. When a real mission comes up, the personnel are all prepared to slip seamlessly into place.

"During those previous exercises, the land, water and air teams worked through the difficulties that are inevitably going to be there," said Badger. This procedure is known as "Form, Storm, Norm and Perform" – a process used to describe the dynamics of a group working through a situation from beginning to end. Badger said, "We came out on the other side of the exercises with a good, solid team." It was the familiarity of all of the agencies with the steps required to work as a unified team that made *Operation Winter Talon* a successful mission.

\* \* \*

New Year's Eve and New Year's Day, with the exception of the occasional firework flare, quietly came and went in Valdez. Had anything happened, though, all of Alaska's team members were ready to swiftly move to remedy the situation. ■



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# Joint Forces

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## Alaska's Forward Progress



DMVA's professional portfolios include homeland security and emergency management, search and rescue, defense of critical infrastructure, missile defense, military airlift, aerial refueling, space surveillance, critical communications, and education and training. The primary key to success in any of these endeavors is ensuring that our team is relevant and ready.

The emergence of the Joint Forces Headquarters is allowing for a positive blending of resources among both Army National Guard and the Air National Guard across America. In Alaska, the Joint Forces Headquarters, or JFHQ, brings together what was previously known as the Army Guard's State Area Command (STARC) and the Air Guard Headquarters.

Military support to civil authority remains one of the JFHQ's preeminent responsibilities. In other words, we remain ready to help our neighbors in their time of need – using the appropriate resources of people, machines, and materiel. The Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management is at the forefront of working with Alaska's people – through local governments, tribal organizations, and entities – providing preparation and training for disasters and emergencies.

Ready to Serve. Though Camp Denali is the hub of operations for the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs, the real impact of what nearly 5,000 civilian employees, military members, and volunteers do for Alaska is felt across the state. Photo: Mark Farmer

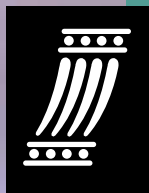
This Department is at the forefront of change. DMVA employees are on the leading edge of new and emerging technologies. We are taking the lead, on behalf of the State, in proving out the value and worth of new communications gear and new methods of communicating. All of this effort is coordinated with other Departments across State government as well as the federal Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security.

Alaska is a change leader, advancing defense, communications, emergency management, missile defense, aviation, and related safety issues.

Coupled with our long standing commitment to veterans and advocacy for their families, the DMVA is forging ahead with plans for a State Veterans Home and continuing the recognition efforts for the Alaska Territorial Guard.

The JFHQ is the catalyst for leadership and resource success – not just for the Guard, but for Alaska.





# Environmental

Preserving the Land: Citizens & Soldiers

## The Alaska Army National Guard Environmental Team

By Stacy Siebert

*The job of the staff of the Alaska Army Guard Environmental Section is to support our soldiers and civilians and help them protect the environment while meeting their mission.*

*In coming issues of the Warriors, we will take you behind the scenes, and show you how we are preserving the beauty of Alaska, but first I'll explain who "we" are and what we do:*

**Bill Vagt** is our Environmental Program Manager. He oversees everything from personnel management to budgeting. He works with our senior leaders and military command to merge environmental goals with mission goals.

**Norm Straub** is our Compliance Section Manager. He oversees regulatory compliance, including contaminated site clean-up and restoration.

**Kent Richter** is our National Resource Section Manager. He oversees environmental conservation projects. Conservation includes researching and documenting the environmental impact of various military activities before they happen.

**Jerry Walton** is our Cultural Resource Manager. He is our primary liaison with Alaska Native tribes, villages and corporations and conducts Government to Government consultations. He works to ensure that we preserve cultural artifacts, architecture, history and human remains.

**Tim Roy** is our Hazardous Waste Program Manager. He oversees the process needed to get rid of all regulated waste generated statewide by the Army Guard, and any group within DMVA. He works to reduce waste by increasing recycling, pollution prevention activities and affirmative procurement.

**Aaron Richins** is our Global Information Systems Specialist. He collects geographic data and compiles it into a usable format with hi-tech software.

**Emerson Krueger** is our Natural Resource Specialist. He helps senior leaders use borrowed land wisely and advises the Army Guard on Best Management Practices for managing natural resource issues.

**Gretchen Grekowicz** is our Compliance Specialist Program Manager. She ensures our soldiers and our Facilities Maintenance Office teams have everything they need to respond to spills, including materials and spill plans. She is the main point of contact for Alaska Army Guard in the event of a spill.

**Kristin Lemieux** is our Environmental Technical Support Specialist. She maintains and updates all environmental databases and financial issues – including our federal program dollars.

*You'll be hearing more from us in the future editions of Warriors.* ■

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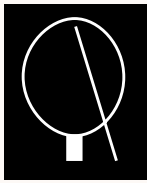
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# Family Assistance Center

## Alaska National Guard Family Program Services offered by the Family Assistance Center

The Family Assistance Center (FAC) is composed of prescribed functions and services provided to military families by the military as a policy and regulatory requirement. Staffed by military members, civilian workers, and volunteers, it is primarily a resource and referral service. The FAC supports the family of any military service member, which includes the extended family – parents, siblings, other relatives and significant others. Our primary services include the following:

### **Resource and Referral**

**Crisis referral:** referral and coordination for crisis counseling assistance is provided through our trained staff including our chaplain, and/or appropriate state and local human service agencies.

**TRICARE and military benefits information:** counseling and assistance in forms completion and claims submission. The FAC will provide briefings and information on TRICARE, including dental.

**Emergency financial assistance:** counseling and assistance in loan/grants submittal through Emergency Relief Agencies, American Red Cross, and through state and local human service agencies.

**Legal information and referral:** information and assistance is coordinated through the Staff Judge Advocate or available legal service agencies. Information is provided pertaining to preparation of wills, powers of attorney, and appropriate counseling on the provisions of the Service Member Civil Relief Act. Employer Support of Guard and Reserve information is also available.

**Mobilization and deployment trainings:** this process includes information and training on the preparation, sustainment, and reunion phases for the military member and their family including youth training.

**Trainings:** The FAC offers various training, including Army Family Team Building, Family Readiness Group Management, Trained Crisis Responder, Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training, youth team-building training, Stress~ Time~ Money Management Classes, etc. ■



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Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve

## Commander In Chief Supporting Guardmembers



Alaska Governor Frank Murkowski (center) holds a statement of employer support for members of Guard Reserve military components. Governor Murkowski has pledged to support state employees who serve. Pictured with the Governor are: (left to right) MSgt. Jordan Niemuth, 168th Air Refueling Wing Recruiter; Butch Stein, Alaska ESGR Employer Outreach Chairman; Steve Lundgren, Employer Support of the Guard & Reserve; and Col. Mike Williams, 168th Air Refueling Wing Vice Commander. Photo: Capt. Paulette Goodwin

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# Who We Are...

***Do you think the State should use the Permanent Fund to fund other state programs?***

**Dave Andrews**

*Emergency Management Specialist*  
Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management



"I guess it would depend on the program. I wouldn't mind, it's not my money."

**Staff Sgt. Jennifer Heffele**

*PAC Supervisor*  
1/297th Infantry Battalion



"No, because I just think that once they start to use it, that they will take all of it."

**John Cotenias**

*Security Guard*  
Alaska National Guard Armory



"The fund was made to make up for a shortfall in revenue for the state, not for us to have a check in October. Guess what? We have a shortfall in revenue. Within reason I don't mind if they tap the fund."

**Staff Sgt. Michael Kinville**

*Supply Specialist*  
3/297th Infantry Battalion



"I see both sides of the issue right now, but it depends on the day you ask me."



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# Legacy

Passages from *Soldiers of the Mists*

***Throughout future Warriors issues, we will print chapters from Cliff Salisbury's book, "Soldiers of the Mist – Minutemen of the Alaska Frontier." The book was written after Salisbury approached former Adjutant General of Alaska (1986-1991), Maj. Gen. John Schaeffer about the need to document the history of the Alaska Guard and Militia. Schaeffer believed the story of his people should be told and that it is important for present and future generations to understand the sacrifices our Minutemen and Women have always made for Alaska. Here, then, from Alaska National Guard Historian Emeritus Cliff Salisbury is...***

## I. The Heritage

In the farthest northwest distance of America lay an area of mists and darkness where land, sky and sea seemed to merge into one great mystery. Ice Age followed Ice Age leaving a history open to interpretation only by trained scientists. The land behind the hiding mists over the Bering Land Bridge may have appeared bleak and featureless to those first hunters following migrating animals into Alaska. But from the beginning, that same magical magnet which would draw mankind to Alaska for the next thousands of years seemed to be a part of the original recipe which formed the land.

A force seemed to whisper the same message that has come down to the present generation of true Alaskans. "This is the place—there is no other like it on earth and this shall be home." The winds of time sang a song which said, "I am beautiful, I can be cruel, but I am worth fighting for." Those first people recognized value and formed a great heritage for the unnumbered generations to follow who would be pleased to call themselves Alaskans.

The first people brought the original methodology of history with them. The



Student cadets took great pride in their Civil War-style uniforms and rifles. The Natives showed an interest in the military at an early age. The inborn warrior spirit made them serious students of soldiering.

Photo: Sheldon Jackson College Museum, Sitka, Alaska

spoken history of Alaska was retold from primary source to secondary source—generation to generation—for at least 15,000 years, maybe more. Those stout sons of survival, descending down through the generations, would pass on stories of courage, loyalty and mighty warrior feats. Was it the ancient tradition of defending the family unit that produced the fierce pride and deep patriotism found in today's Native Alaskan Guardsmen and Women?

Alaska was shaped by fire, ice, water and wind. The elements tempered manhood into steel and produced Alaska's first warriors. The very nature of this rugged land produced a need for Minutemen and thus was born a warrior spirit which would remain forever within Alaska's first people. The strategic location of the land cemented the concept from the beginning of time and the winds of legend swirled stories of war and warriors across the year of unwritten history.

Delores Albert-Jack, a Tlingit poet from Angoon, Alaska, has a feeling for this warrior spirit that could never be experienced by a non-Native. She describes her feelings beautifully in a preface to a poem about America's failure



Early naval commanders instituted a Native Police Force to maintain law and order in the villages. The program was successful as Natives were proud of their uniformed service for the U.S. Government and were loyal and effective.

Photo: Alaska State Library, Juneau



to honor its Vietnam veterans.

"Since I was a youngster, soldiership was a subject that was handled with care. My ancestors impressed upon me that soldiers are treated with honor. Only they can dishonor themselves. Somewhere along the line, I was taught that I came from the land. Before the whiteman came, we held this mystery dear. Anyone who defends this land is highly recognized. Even if our warriors/soldiers returned unvictoriously they were treated with much respect. They put their lives on the line for the land which included us. Because of our belief, we greet and take care of our warriors/soldiers. Although Indians in general are called down, cut short and humiliated, they hold more dignity than most. They know what it means to fight, to lose, and to win. The bottom line is that we take care of our fighting unit.

"When the situation called for it, our Tlingit people banded together for strength and number. We had an unwritten alliance with other Clans in Southeastern Alaska. The Plains Indians have this unspoken code also. I speak of a time when honor held its rightful place

and was given when it was merited.

Although I did not live technically in the times of old, it was instilled in me. I could close my eyes and look back to those times."

This inner strength or warrior spirit which carried native Alaskans through a sometimes violent unwritten history helped them survive an even more dangerous written history—the coming of the whites. The written history of Alaska began during the reign of Czar Peter the Great of Russia (1682-1725). Although Cossacks had been pushing towards Siberia for nearly a hundred years, it was not until Peter's time that the Russian Empire gained the foothold in Eastern Siberia that would make possible Vitus Bering's voyage of discovery to Alaska in 1741. Neither Peter nor Bering would live to see the settlement of Alaska, but within two years Russian traders pushed east along the Aleutian Islands and came in contact with the Aleutian people.

There may have been as many as 30,000 Aleuts at one time before the coming of the Russians. Many were robbed, murdered and enslaved and their numbers declined rapidly. Though often

pictured as mild and helpless, they in fact were endowed with the warrior spirit and fought back when possible. They survived in a harsh sea world and successfully hunted in the world's most severe climate. Their skills were needed to keep the Russians in the New World.

Even before the Russians enslaved them, they practiced the techniques of war. They raided, feuded and fought amongst themselves and with others. It appears they used a sort of compound bow and poisoned lances in early wars and knew about metal. They also used a form of body armour along with clubs, daggers and battle helmets. They showed a special kind of courage but were no match for the Russians and nearly perished. ■

*Next Legacy installment from **Soldiers of the Mists** series: The Americans*

***Soldiers of the Mists** was published by Pictorial Histories Publishing of Missoula, Montana, March 1992. It is available through fine bookstores throughout Alaska and online.*



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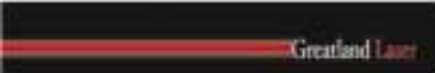
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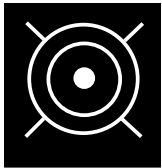
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# Awards • Decorations • Promotions

## Bronze Star



Col. Jim Robinson . . . . . JFHQ-AK (Air)  
Lt. Col. Steve Williams . . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)

## Legion of Merit



Brig. Gen. (Ret) George Cannelos . JFHQ-AK (Air)  
CW4 Verlon C. Pearce . . . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)  
Lt. Col. Jennifer B. Davis . . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)  
CW4 Dave P. Deming . . . . . 297th Support Bn

## Meritorious Service Medal



SMSgt. Daniel Siekawitch . . . . JFHQ-AK (Air)  
Lt. Col. Martha S. Fink . . . . . 176th Wg  
SSG Barry C. Williams . . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)  
SFC Fenumiai Ilalio . . . Recruiting & Retention  
SGM Michael A. Page . . . . . 207th Inf Gp  
Maj. Matthew B. Magsino . . . JFHQ-AK (Army)

## Army Commendation Medal



Sgt. James C. Ramoth . . . . . 1st Scout Bn

## Air Force Commendation Medal



Lt. Col. Martha S. Fink . . . . . 176th Wg  
Major Richard A. Cavens . . . . 176th Wg  
SSgt Barbara J. McAfee . . . . . 144th AS  
SSgt David A. Victory . . . . . 176th Wg

## Alaska Legion of Merit

CW4 Dave P. Deming . . . . 297th Support Bn

## Airman of the Quarter

SrA Thomas C. Onyekwelu . . . . 168th ARW

## NCO of the Quarter

SSgt Lorri Heneveld . . . . . 168th ARW

## Senior NCO of the Quarter

SMSgt Shannon Stalder . . . . . 168th ARW

## Annual Awards

### Airman of the Year

SrA Dakonya Lemke . . . . . 168th ARW

### NCO of the Year

TSgt Cassie Lort . . . . . 168th ARW

### SNCO of the Year

MSgt Teresa Renson . . . . . 168th ARW

## Malico/Helgerman Leadership Award

MSgt Antonio Lucchesi . . . . . 168th ARW

## ANGOA Officer of the Year

1Lt Craig Fleener . . . . . 168th ARW



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## PROMOTIONS

### Lieutenant Colonel

Patty Wilbanks .....176th Wg  
John Minney .....176th Wg

### Major

John Mazzitello .....168th ARW  
Michael Method .....176th Wg  
Cindra Bobby .....176th MDS  
Scot Milani .....210th SQS  
Kay Spear-Budd .....176th ACS  
Richard Bouska .....176th ACS

### Captain

Michael R. Jordan .....176th Wg  
Aleyx Lang .....210th RQS  
Brian Kile .....210th RQS

### First Lieutenant

Joseph E. Conroy .....176th Wg  
Marc D. Overson .....176th Wg  
Craig Fleener .....176th Wg  
Irma R. Keator .....176th Wg  
Raymundo Felix .....297th Support Bn

### Second Lieutenant

Nanette Martinez .....176th Wg  
Patrick Lang .....176th Wg

Master Sgt. Frank J. Chmelik, a Crew Chief attached to the 407th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron, marshals a KC-135 Stratotanker to its resting place at a forward-deployed location in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Chmelik and the aircraft represent the 168th Aircraft Generation Squadron, Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska Air National Guard.

Photo: Staff Sgt. Cheresa D. Clark



### Chief Master Sergeant

Robert G. McNeil .....210th RQS  
James Ebelacker .....176th MDS  
Cassandra Shea .....176th OSF  
Peter Meacham .....176th OSF

### Master Sergeant (E-8)

James T. Wafer II .....JFHQ-AK (Army)

### Senior Master Sergeant

Brian Webb .....176th Wg  
Forrest M. Muhle .....210th RQS  
David M. Streit .....176th MSG  
Rayanne Zellner .....176th MSF  
Vickie S. Applegate .....168th ARW  
Laura A. Czajka .....168th MDS  
Robert Ferber .....168th MXS  
Thomas Sawyer .....168th MXS  
Iscah Miles .....176th OSF  
Steven Calvin .....176th ACS  
John Loomis .....210th RQS  
Clifton Snapp .....176th ACS

### Sergeant First Class

Herbert B. Bloomer, Jr. ....1/207th Avn Bn  
Steven Branham .....297th Support Bn  
Kelly L. Repnow .....JFHQ-AK (Army)  
Christopher Simmons .....207th Inf Gp  
John Sztajer .....Recruiting & Retention

### Master Sergeant (E-7)

Brian Hartley .....176th Wg  
Mark Eggleton .....176th Wg  
Tod Hemmert .....176th Wg  
Juan Kingrey .....176th Wg  
Eugene Hodges .....168th Wg  
Sharon L. Blair .....168th Wg  
James Wolverton .....168th OSF  
Paula Parrish .....176th MSG  
Brian C. Lewis .....176th CES  
Teresa Cooper .....176th Wg  
James Christenson .....176th MDS  
Mark W. Homchick .....168th MXS

### Staff Sergeant (E-6)

Rodney Jones .....207th Inf Gp  
Travis Kulp .....207th Inf Gp  
Amber Mayer .....297th Support Bn  
Dwayne McDonald .....3rd Scout Bn  
Daniel Spady .....3rd Scout Bn  
Robert Spinks .....297th Support Bn  
Mateo Villafranca Jr. ....1/207th Avn Bn

### Sergeant (E-5)

Matthew Dubois .....3rd Scout Bn  
Gabriel Duckworth .....3rd Scout Bn  
Randall Gamble .....3rd Scout Bn  
Robert Harris III .....JFHQ-AK (Army)  
Jeremiah Ladenburg .....JFHQ-AK (Army)  
Michael Martinez .....JFHQ-AK (Army)  
Frank R. Peterson Jr. ....3rd Scout Bn  
Andre Scott .....JFHQ-AK (Army)  
Barry Simpson .....297th Spt Bn  
Michael Stuart .....3rd Scout Bn

### Specialist (E-4)

Robert Bates .....3rd Scout Bn  
Felipe Borje IV .....3rd Scout Bn  
Amy Bowen .....207th Inf Gp  
David Doxey .....207th Inf Gp  
Trent Foldager .....207th Inf Gp  
Charles Harry III .....1st Scout Bn  
Melkart Hawi .....207th Inf Gp  
Anthony Manacio V .....3rd Scout Bn  
Tanya McNaughton .....Med Cmd  
Paul Norwood .....3rd Scout Bn  
Aracelis Ovalles .....Med Cmd  
Jose Pineda .....3rd Scout Bn  
Ryan Polty .....1st Scout Bn  
John Quennie .....1st Scout Bn  
Artemio Rivera .....3rd Scout Bn  
Brandon Steele .....3rd Scout Bn  
Irving Tally .....3rd Scout Bn  
Mark Tiedemann .....207th Inf Gp  
Joseph Wojtaszek .....207th Inf Gp

## RETIRED

***Lt. Col. Martha S. Fink***  
176th Wg

***CMSgt Bobby Trexler***  
168th ARW

***SMSgt Allan Kaufman***  
168th ARW

***MSgt Jeffery Elam***  
168th ARW

***MSgt Keith Fye***  
168th ARW

***TSgt Larry Jacobs***  
168th ARW



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# Start of the Trail

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## December 2003

### JFHQ-AK (Army)

Felicia Link

### 207th Inf Gp

Stacey C. Miller • Kilkeny K. Giles

### Missile Defense & Space Bn

Richard Deblizan • Phil S. Franks

### 1st Scout Bn

Luke K. Sinclair

### 297 Support Bn

Jeremy Nash • Caitlin V. Allen

### 1/207th Avn Bn

Nicholas J. Mikos

### 3rd Scout Bn

Alexander D. Swanston

## January 2004

### DET 1, 117th Public Affairs Detachment

Theresa S. Fruster

### 207th Inf Gp

Seth McMillan • Robert C. Bowers

Stacy A. LeBlue • Richard P. Anderson

### Med Cmd

Jon-Paul C. Davis

### Missile Defense & Space Bn

David P. Massulo • Donald Reeder

### 1st Scout Bn

Emmett P. Matthias • Emery G. Matthias

Denise M. Moore • Danny R. Dicaire

### 2nd Scout Bn

Raymond Lowdermilk

### 297th Support Bn

Daniel L. Deal • Thomas P. Sledge

Amanda M. Jackson

### 1st Scout Bn

Thomas Stokesberry • Stanley Stauffer

### 3rd Scout Bn

Michael Wright • Jordan P. Rymer

## February 2004

### JFHQ-AK (Army)

Eric A. Holz

### 207th Inf Gp

Anthony E. Rivas • Richard G. Chambers Jr.

Jimmy A. Colley • Clinton W. Shanan

Bruce A. Tenunis

### Missile Defense & Space Bn

Sheena L. Batac • Prissilla G. Brown

### 1st Scout Bn

Keith P. Forte • Christopher M. Cale

Steven Kaleak

### 297th Support Bn

Brian Perrigo • Jacqueline Tyson

Brenda Lutz

### 3rd Scout Bn

Robert Follett • Robert Sterling

Romeo Manzano

### 2nd Scout Bn

Tonya James

### 297th Support Bn

Michelle Wenger • Lehman Tolliver

### 207th Inf Gp

Joe B.L. Joe

### 297th Support Bn

Cara Falco

### 176th Wg

Jennifer M. Schellhase • Nicholas T. White

Steven J. Gehring • Ryan I. Baker

Brandon S. Stuemke • Robin L. Gill

Keith A. Greenhalgh • Neal J. Waltman

Kelly L. Kane • David A. Bernier

Corry J. Mathews • Steven G. Clark

Brian A. Hubble

## Officer Accessions:

### 176th Wg

Mario Binder • Linda Johnson

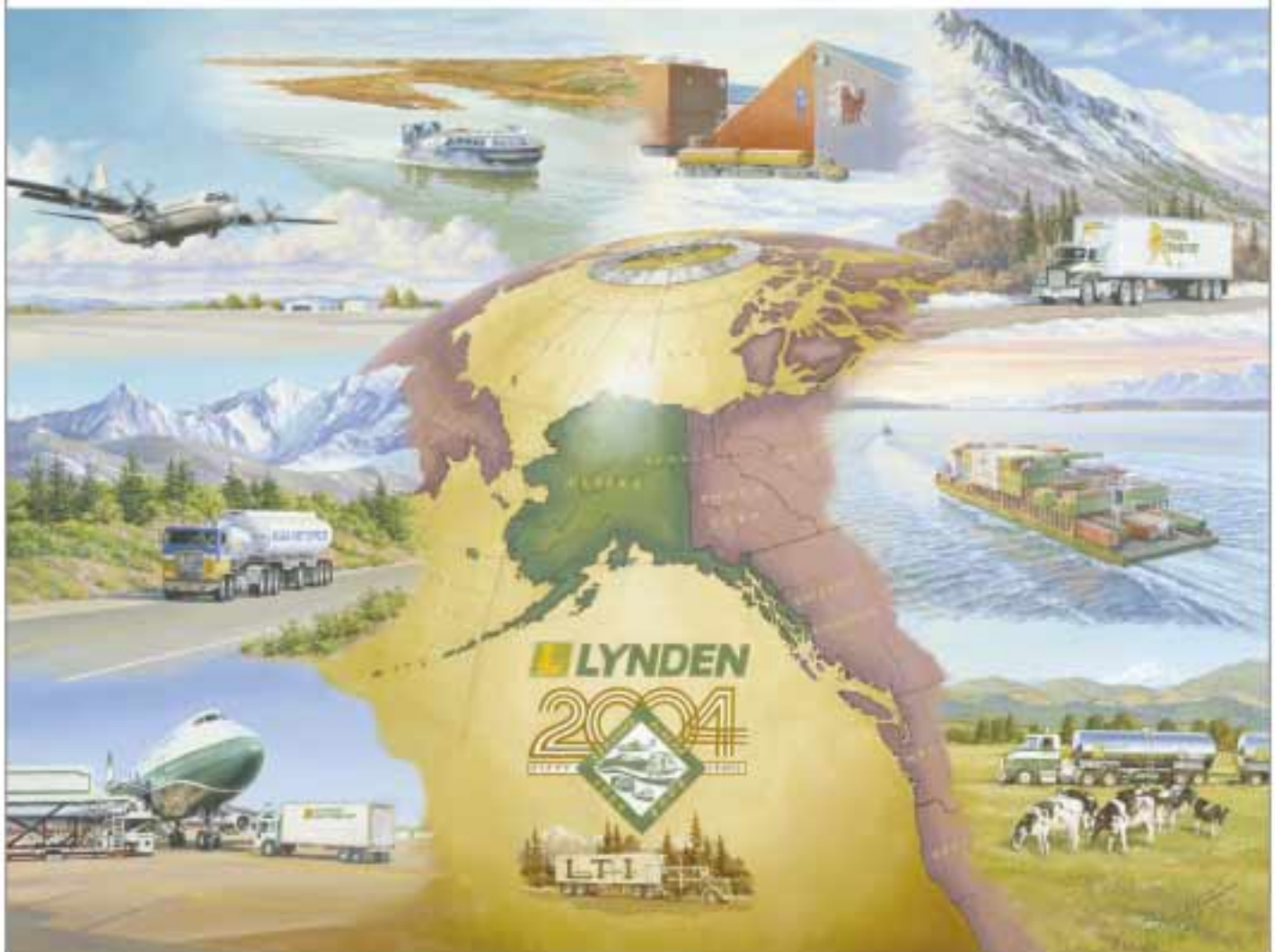
## Warriors Training Schedule

Here are the inactive duty training dates for all Alaska Army and Air National Guard units. Dates for subordinate units are the same as their parent headquarters, unless otherwise indicated. All dates are subject to change. Most Alaska Army Guard units perform their annual training (AT) through the winter.

Alaska National Guard	May	June	July	August
Joint Forces Headquarters – Alaska	1 – 2	5 – 6	None	7 – 8
<b>Alaska Army National Guard</b>				
207th Infantry Group	30 Apr – 2 May	4 – 6	None	6 – 8
1/207th Aviation Regiment	1 – 2	4 – 6	None	6 – 8
Regional Training Institute	15 – 16	5 – 6	None	7 – 8
<b>Alaska Air National Guard</b>				
168th Air Refueling Wing	1 – 2	5 – 6	10 – 11	7 – 8
176th Wing	15 – 16	17 – 20	None	7 – 8
206th Combat Communications Sqdn	15 – 16	17 – 20	None	7 – 8



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